GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1560
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
CRISIS OF GLOBAL WARMING
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was consensus among the international delegations in the meeting held on 4th May, 2007 in Bangkok to check the harmful effects of the emission of greenhouse gases to overcome the threat caused by global warming;

(b) whether consensus on the report of International Panel on Climate Change was also arrived at in the said meeting and directions have been given to take immediate steps to reduce the increased of the world by two degree Celsius;

(c) if so, the measures taken to overcome the crisis caused by Global Warming in the country;

(d) the ratio of social forestry in our country, State-wise; and

(e) the percentage of gas emission in our country as compared to the developed countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) A meeting of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was held in Bangkok during April 30 − May 4, 2007 to consider and adopt a report of the Working Group III of the IPCC on mitigation of climate change. The IPCC is a specialised scientific body and is charged with the responsibility for preparation of scientific assessment based on the peer reviewed published literature. It is not a forum to develop consensus on the actions to be taken by the various countries. The report of the IPCC on mitigation of climate change adopted on May 4, 2007 at Bangkok, Thailand provides global level assessment of new literature on scientific, technological, environmental, economic and social aspect of climate change, after the year 2002. Further, the report provides global trends of greenhouse gas emission; mitigation in short and medium term (until 2030); mitigation in long term (after 2030); policies, measures and instruments to mitigate climate change; sustainable development and climate change mitigation and gaps in knowledge.

(b) & (c) No such consensus was reached on any target of 2 degree Celcius for the global warming. However, the Government of India is a Party to Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority to accord Host Country Approvals to eligible Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects as per the requirements of Marrakesh Accords. Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments. India also has the largest number of projects under CDM of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. Further, the message of CDM has been propagated through various workshops and seminars organized from time to time. Capacity building programmes have been undertaken for various stakeholders with multilateral and bilateral agencies.

A sustainable development path is being followed in India by a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change:

i. ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency
ii. promoting use of renewable energy
iii. power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme
iv. use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
v. fuel switching to encourage cleaner energy
vi. afforestation and conservation of forests
vii. promotion of clean coal technologies
viii. reduction of gas flaring
ix. encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems
x. environmental quality management for all sectors

(d): The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded lands and adjoining areas is implemented through a two-tier decentralized set-up of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) at the village level. Till 31.3.2007, 729 FDA projects were operationalised to treat a total area of 9.36 lakh hectares. State-wise area is given at Annex.

(e): Greenhouse gas emissions of anthropogenic origin from India account for around 3% of the global emissions at 1994 levels, which were estimated and officially communicated to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as

India's first National Communication.